

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Volume 15, Issue 1

Fall 2012

Comments From Your Conservationist

By Jerry Orr, NRCS District Conservationist

As I go down the road of maturity, one of the features of life that I see around every curve is “change”. The further down this road I go the harder it is for me to change or accept change. Change, sometimes good and sometimes bad, always seems to be there. As I look in the rear view mirror at 2012, one thing I can see is a big change in the way that the United States Department of Agriculture will conduct business in Choctaw County in the future. There has never been a time, since I have been working for the United States Department of Agriculture, where there has been as much change in the way landowners will work with USDA personnel. All the employees of the Farm Service Agency in Choctaw County have retired or transferred to other offices. The Choctaw County Farm Service Agency Office has now moved the Oktibbeha County. The Natural Resource Conservation Service Office has now moved next door to the old Farm Service Agency Office. As I have already said, change, good or bad, is sometimes a hard adjustment. As I look up the road, I can see the possibility of more change ahead. There is a very important presidential election in November that very easily could affect the way the USDA does business in the future. The United States Congress is now in the process of approving a new Farm Bill for 2012. Both of these events could affect future operations of USDA Offices. Whatever changes come our way, the Natural Resource Conservation Staff in Choctaw County will always work with our landowners to help protect our natural resources and make our land more productive.

As always, the NRCS personnel are always eager to discuss conservation matters with the landowners and land users of our county. We will do our best to help you solve any conservation problems that you might have. This help may come in the form of technical advice or financial assistance. We are now taking applications for financial assistance to apply many conservation practices that might help you with conservation problems. .

This issue of the Choctaw County SWCD Newsletter is brought to you by:

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Many times when a conservation problem is addressed, the land is made more productive immediately and for years to come.

Judy, Theresa and I have enjoyed working with all the landowners that have visited our office this past year. We are looking forward to another great year. May God bless you and your family this coming year.



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Activities & Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2012

The District would like to thank all of our cooperators, supporting members, and assisting state and federal agencies for helping us carry out our programs. We would like to thank the Choctaw County Board of Supervisors for their financial assistance. The Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Commissioners submit this report of progress in conserving the natural resources in Choctaw County for Fiscal Year 2012.

Tree Planting Week – The District sold ornamental, shade tree and fruit tree seedlings in order to encourage individuals to plant trees to enhance our environment. Over 766 seedlings were sold by the District and distributed during Tree Planting Week.

Annual Membership Drive – We had 11 individuals to become members of the District during the fiscal year. These dues were used to fund the information and education efforts of the District.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week – We distributed Soil & Water Stewardship materials to 25 churches. The theme for this year was “Soil to Spoon”. The Choctaw County SWCD tried to encourage others in Choctaw County to think about using responsible land management practices to ensure a sustainable food supply and healthy land and soil for future generations.

Beaver Control Program – The District received funding from the Choctaw County Supervisors for a beaver control program in Choctaw County. In 2012, we provided cost-share funds to 8 individuals. Through the Choctaw County Beaver Control Program, 81 beavers were reported killed and 23 beaver dams were destroyed.

Litter Spreader Equipment Rental – Fourteen farmers have taken advantage of the Litter Spreader rental so far this year.

The District’s Commissioners and the District Clerk are in charge of the District’s continuing conservation program. The Commissioners are elected and serve without pay.

The Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are:

Jimmy S. Busby (Beat 2)

Everett Adams (Beat 5)

Billy McMullen (Beat 1)

Nancy Jackson, Deputy Commissioner

Mary Turnipseed, Deputy Commissioner

Jim Turnipseed (Beat 4)

Dewitt Cutts (Beat 3)

Judy Briggs, District Clerk

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATED AT THE RED HILLS MINE



Jerry Orr teaches the 4th graders about tree planting



We can do this!



Reese McIntire, fourth grader at French Camp Elementary, was the overall winner of the “Soil to Spoon” poster contest sponsored by the Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Red Hills Mine.

NRCS OUTREACH



Jerry Orr, NRCS



Juli Hughes, Mississippi State University
Extension Service – Choctaw County



Choctaw County Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Office and the Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District, hosted an NRCS Outreach Meeting on Thursday, September 13, 2012. We had 25 people turn out for the event. Speakers included representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Farm Services Agency (FSA); Rural Development Authority, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi State University Extension Service – Choctaw County and Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District.

NRCS in Mississippi is committed to making sure the services we provide are known and accessible to everyone. Our “Outreach Initiative” was very instrumental in attaining these goals.

NRCS in Mississippi addresses the needs of the under-served individuals and groups that include those who have not participated in or have received limited benefits from USDA or NRCS programs that could improve the quality of their lives and their immediate environment.

NRCS is committed to ensuring that outreach programs and services in the state of Mississippi are made accessible to all NRCS customers, by accomplishing this, we will increase participation and benefits to all.

Attendees listened to presentations from the state, federal and local agencies as to how the programs will benefit the local landowner



**CHOCTAW COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OFFERS LITTER SPREADER EQUIPMENT RENTAL**

The Choctaw SWCD has a 16 Pull Type Hydraulic Power Litter Spreader for rental to farmers who wish to spread chicken litter on their farms. The charge for renting the equipment is \$150 per day with a \$50 deposit. The deposit may be used toward payment for use of the equipment or reimbursed upon return of the equipment.

Anyone interested in renting the spreader may contact the Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District at 285-6250 and come in to the office at 571 South Louisville Street, Ackerman, Mississippi 39735

Beaver Control Program

The Choctaw County Board of Supervisors has made funds available to the Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District for a beaver program. These funds will be available to approved Choctaw County Landowners.

The Choctaw County SWCD will administer this program. Applications will be received at the Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District at 571 South Louisville Street, Ackerman, MS 39759

Under this program, landowners will receive 50% cost-share assistance for having beavers trapped and beaver dams blown on their private land. This cost-share assistance will not exceed \$500 for any landowner per year.

Each landowner is required to complete an application for cost-share assistance each year. A list of approved trappers is provided. It is the responsibility of the landowner to pay the approved trapper and furnish receipts for payment to the District office for reimbursement. The landowner and the trapper will be required to complete an agreement stating that the job has been completed and the trapper has been paid in full. After the job is completed, the trapper and the landowner will report to the District the number of beavers caught, the number of dams blown, the number of acres trapped successfully, etc.

The Choctaw County SWCD is now accepting applications for cost-share assistance under this program for 2013. For information, call 662-285-6250.



Judy's Wild Rice Chicken Casserole

1 pkg. Uncle Ben's Wild Rice (original)
1 pkg. chicken tenders
2 cans cream of chicken soup
2 cans of water
1 large can French fried onion rings (approx 2 cups)
Lemon pepper, roasted garlic or seasonings of your choice*

In 9 X 13 casserole dish, pour contents from package of wild rice. Mix chicken soup with 2 cans of water and pour over wild rice mix. Wash chicken and place on top of this mixture. Sprinkle chicken with your favorite spice. Cover with foil and cook at 350° until chicken and rice are done. Take foil off, sprinkle onion rings on top, place back in oven until brown.

*I use lemon pepper and roasted garlic seasoning.

**Note: Let set for about 3-4 minutes before serving.

Judy Briggs, District Clerk
Choctaw Co. SWCD

We have Choctaw County Plat Directory Books for Sale! They are \$35 each. Funds from this project help support the Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District.



2013 Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Soil and Water Stewardship Week will be celebrated from the last Sunday in April through the first Sunday in May, 2013. If your church is not currently receiving materials to assist with the observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, please call our office at (662) 285-6250. Materials include **bulletin inserts, bookmarks, and activity sheets** for the children.

We will be glad to make these materials available to you.

2011-2012 Members Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District

*Adam Berry
Harvey Black
Joe Gant
Francis Odom*

*Glen Berry
Jimmie Oliver
Bob Bagwell
Doug Atkinson*

*Leon Stevenson
Glendal Reid
Kirk Reid*

Membership Drive

The Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District is a tax-exempt non-profit organization devoted to protecting and saving our natural resources. We would like to offer you the opportunity to become a member of the Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District. Membership dues are \$10.00 each. Your contribution is tax deductible. All funds generated through the membership drive will be used to maintain and improve our conservation education programs in Choctaw County. To become a member of the District, just complete and return the form below with your check.

Thank you for your support!

***Join Us Today!
2012-2013 Membership
Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District***

Dues - \$10.00

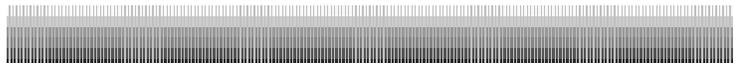
(All dues are tax deductible.)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Make dues check payable to: ***Choctaw County SWCD*** Mail to: ***571 S. Louisville St., Ackerman, MS 39735***



Conservation Websites



www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Commission

www.mswcc.state.ms.us

Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission

www.msucares.com

Mississippi State Extension Service

www.mfc.state.ms.us

Mississippi Forestry Commission

www.msacd.org

Mississippi Resource Conservation & Development

www.wildlifemiss.org

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

PUBLISHED BY

The Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District

571 S. Louisville Street

Ackerman, MS 39735

(662) 285-6250

COMMISSIONERS AND DISTRICT STAFF

Jimmy S. Busby, Chairman

Jim Turnipseed, Vice-Chairman

Everett Adams, Secretary/Treasurer

Dewitt Cutts, Commissioner

Billy McMullen, Commissioner

Nancy Jackson, Deputy Commissioner

Mary Turnipseed, Deputy Commissioner

Jerry Orr, District Conservationist

Judy Briggs, District Clerk

More Information

For more information and updates about the Farm Bill, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill, or the NRCS Website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill.

The Choctaw County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) does not discriminate in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District

571 S. Louisville St., Ackerman, MS 39735 (662) 285-6250

(Deadline To Order: December 7, 2012)

2012-2013 TREE SEEDLING ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Abbreviations: Br.-Branched, S.-Seedling, Tr.-Transplant, C.-Field-grown Rooted Cutting, RC-Bed Grown Rooted Cutting

<u>Flowering Shrubs, Etc.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u>No. Ordered</u>	<u>Total</u>
Blue Hydrangea	12" Br. Tr. 2 Yr.	3.00	_____	_____
*Pee Gee Hydrangea	18" Br. Tr.	3.50	_____	_____
Crape Myrtle - Pink	18" C.	1.50	_____	_____
Crape Myrtle - Purple	18" C.	1.50	_____	_____
Crape Myrtle - Red	18" C.	1.50	_____	_____
Crape Myrtle - White	18" C.	1.50	_____	_____
Dwarf Burning Bush	12" Br.Tr.	5.00	_____	_____
Spectabilis Forsythia (Yellow Bell)	18" C.	1.00	_____	_____
Variegated Weigelia	18" C.	1.00	_____	_____

Shade/Ornamental Trees

Autumn Blaze Maple	2' Tr.	6.00	_____	_____
*Silver Maple	5' S.	4.00	_____	_____
*Persimmon	2' S.	2.00	_____	_____
*Sassafras	2' S.	2.00	_____	_____
Bradford Pear	2' Tr. Whip	6.00	_____	_____
*Golden Rain Tree	2' S.	2.00	_____	_____
Corkscrew Willow	3' C.	2.50	_____	_____
Dogwood - Pink	18" Br.	5.00	_____	_____
Dogwood - White	18" S.	1.00	_____	_____
Flowering Cherry	18" Tr.	3.00	_____	_____
Ginkgo	18" S.	1.25	_____	_____
Native Crabapple	18" S.	1.25	_____	_____
Red Bud	18" S.	.75	_____	_____
Red Maple	18" S.	1.00	_____	_____
River Birch	18" S.	.75	_____	_____
Southern Magnolia	18" S.	2.25	_____	_____
*Jane Magnolia (pink)	18" Br Tr	5.50	_____	_____
Sawtooth Oak	2 Yr. S.	1.00	_____	_____
Sugar Maple	18" 2 yr. S.	1.00	_____	_____
True Weeping Willow	2' C.	1.50	_____	_____
Tulip Tree	18" S.	1.00	_____	_____

Fruit Trees/Small Fruits

Apple - Granny Smith	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
*Apple - Fuji	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
*Apple - Gala	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
Grapes - Concord	2 Yr. No. 1	3.00	_____	_____
Grapes - Thompson Seedless	2 Yr. No. 1	4.00	_____	_____
Grapes - Muscadine Seedlings	18" 2 Yr. S.	3.00	_____	_____
Grapes - Scuppernong Seedlings	18" 2 Yr. S.	3.00	_____	_____
*Peach - Florida King	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
Peach - Hale Haven	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
Pear - Bartlett	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
Pear Pear - Moonglow	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____
*Plum - Abundance	3' Br.	6.00	_____	_____

***New this year!**

TOTALS (Please enclose payment with your order.)

Choctaw County Soil & Water Conservation District
(SWCD)
571 S. Louisville Street
Ackerman, MS 39735

Stamp

Address Service Requested
